

# *Illusion*

\$10.00

THE MAGAZINE FOR CROSSDRESSERS, DRAG QUEENS & ADMIRERS

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## **FETISH COMFORT**

### **Book Review**

The New Good Vibrations Guide to Sex

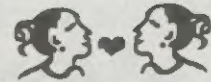
### **Erotic Stories**

Muffled Protests

**Contacts for:**  
**Leather**  
**Rubber**  
**Dominants**  
**Submissives**  
**Transvestites**  
**B & D Games**  
**Fetish Fantasies**



Dear Reader.....



Well, here we are once again! Seems like summer never even got started and *Poof!!!* it's almost over. We hope all our readers had a great summer and summer holiday, whatever you did or where ever you went. It appears the various "Social Committees" in the "Illusions" organization are doing their best to put forth another year of activity for our club members. This is fairly obvious by the full slate of upcoming events shown in our own calendar at the bottom of this page. For those of you who are able to holiday south of the border, we have a listing of events stateside you might be interested in. This upcoming year will be our sixth and although we aren't the oldest club around, we like to think we are one of the most progressive and dynamic clubs in existence. Our membership growth continues and the personal growth displayed by our membership is very gratifying and exciting. I trust all will continue to grow and in so doing we will reach out to more and more people. When we touch other peoples worlds let us always try to make it a positive experience for everyone, a touch that leaves some positives behind. Every time we come in contact with others we have a chance to educate, dispel the myths, let people know we belong here, we're not abominations, just somebodies brother or sister, mother or father! We deserve all the rights and privileges like any one else or like any other group has. However, if peoples perceptions of us are only what is dished out by the "Television Talk Shows" or by the "Moral Majority" and then compounded by a bad personal experience, we as a group will be hard pressed to continue with the few rights and little space we now have! Remember you are an ambassador of "Illusions" and our lifestyle every time you meet or are seen by anyone. Take advantage of every situation to show a positive image and like they try to do in school..... EDUCATE..... EDUCATE..... EDUCATE.

In Horn rims and Hair buns..... (I don't think so! I know it's just an educational tie in.)

Love... Barbie and Christine

## Illusions' Calendar of Events

### Calgary

Sept 16 - Appreciation Night  
Sept 23 - Dinner and Movie Outing *See Teri*  
Oct 14 - Dress For Pleasure III  
Oct 26 - Halloween Theme  
Oct 31 - Halloween Outing *See Teri*  
Nov 11 - Bingo Night  
Nov 17 - Mixer in Kananaskis *See Teri*  
Nov 30 - Regular Social with Nail Instruction  
Dec 16 - Christmas Potluck  
Jan 13 - Regular Social  
Jan 25 - Regular Social

### Red Deer

Our Socials Take Place  
on Every Last Saturday  
of the Month at:

#### The Other Place Bar

Bay 3 & 4, 5579-47 St.

Red Deer

342-6440

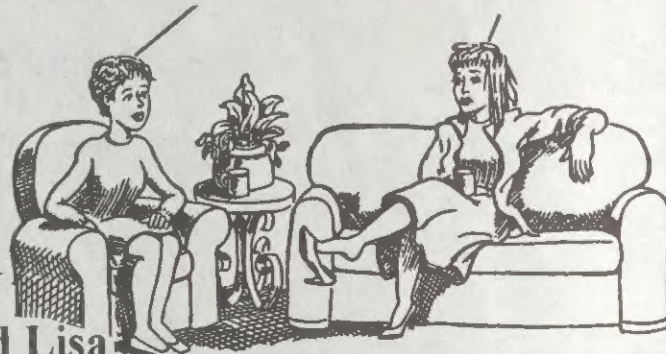
Call for details

### Edmonton

Sept 14 - Makeup Night  
Oct 12 - Wig Tips  
Oct 31 - Halloween  
Nov 9 - Video Night  
Dec 9 - Christmas Party

**For location  
and Illusions  
information  
Call: 486 - 9661**

We can learn about nails? I don't have a hammer!



Attendance to Illusions Calgary and Edmonton functions require that you be a member or invited guest, of either Illusions or an Illusions member.

For location information, or other details about who we are, call:

403-236-7072 in Calgary

403-486-9661 in Edmonton

Editors: Barbie, Christine and Lisa

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## Illusions Summer

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end of the Season*

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## Letter from the Editor

# Blah, Blah, Blah



Where does the time go? Summer holidays are over and once again we are back into our routines. Holidays away, (even if it rains!), are extremely relaxing and rejuvenating. The change of pace was really healthy...and fun.

With a new season approaching, I will continue to look into all of the dilemma's that surround and affect the alternative community in this column.

The topic for this issue? PURGING.

Most of us are 30 plus and we've had enough life experiences along the way, to show who we are and what we're all about. I was sitting by the ocean watching the waves crashing on the beach and I was thinking....I like this. Plain and simple...some things I love, some things I enjoy, some things I don't like. I know these things about myself.

How is it then that people purge a part of themselves that they know they enjoy? Purging is a symptom of denial. Actually its more of an attempt to deny oneself of a pleasure.

When it comes to crossdressing or any fetish that we may enjoy, these are not insignificant parts of who we are. These aren't just hobbies that will come and go. If this is a part of your makeup, then it can't be denied. This is an important part of you.

In a lot of literature, there are so many variables and situations and angles that it makes it hard for people to label themselves precisely; however, one point always seems to remain constant, and it is that this will not go away.

**"Fetishes by definition are not extinguishable".**

So, while purging may seem like a temporary mollification and solution, it isn't. Actually that's exactly what purging is...a temporary fix.

On a permanent level, you need to find a solution to live with. This may be an individual step that's needed or maybe you need a peer group to link up with off and on, or if its really troublesome, a professional counsellor may help you come to terms with this.

Let's look past this thought and explore the dynamics of what actually happens through the purging cycle. Maybe looking at this temporary denial period will help you to achieve some peace of mind.

If you're going to purchase something...whether it be a magazine, clothes, wigs, shoes or whatever works for you, first you feel guilt. There has been money spent in a secret nature on something that has no doubt been blown way out of proportion. Just the internal debate alone before the purchase is made would be enough to make someone feel like they are not in control of their fetish. Once the things are acquired...now what to do? If there's no where to hide the stuff then there's more guilt stacked up. To achieve balance, how about renting a locker or storage spot, or having a friends premises as a neutral location.

It's too nervewracking to leave items anywhere if there is a fear of discovery. Guilt and fear then become bigger than life, and there is no balance in one's existence then.

Purging is like a diet. It's a temporary fix. Does it feel good for a long time? Do the feelings return? Its not unlike the concept of "falling off the wagon".

Purging numerous amounts of times is like breaking a promise to yourself. Each time you purge, more guilt is

heaped on and the fear of discovery increases. This can be very destructive for you. Through this phase...do you not have an increased awareness of what you are all about? Have you not figured that this is an integral part of you?

If you could sit down with yourself and be honest about what makes you tick... the perceived size of your fetish would diminish. If you could rationalize this out...maybe control could be back in your life. Maybe people think its easier to purge then to deal with the issue, denying themselves of true happiness and instead wading out into a tide of frustration and confusion.

***Armed with the knowledge that crossdressing will NOT go away, has to be the key.***

You need to deal with yourself. You need to let yourself enjoy the things that make you tick. You need to be aware that you are not alone with these feelings and ideas. Many people before you have thrown things out... \$1,000's of dollars worth of items have been tossed for all sorts of reasons. Don't let guilt rule your life. I'm sure that this new season will have all sorts of situations and predicaments that will arise, which can and will create difficulties.

Hopefully this entire magazine will reach out to everyone that needs to figure out more about themselves.

In Sandy Sleeping Bags  
and Scratched Sun Glasses

Lots of Love....Barbie

## next..... on DONAHUE . . .

This appendix was originally prepared as a stand alone document by Naomi Owen. With revision and editing assistance from Howard Ruppel Jr., M.A., A.C.S., it was used as background for a Donahue show which aired in February, 1987.

### INTRODUCTION:

Because crossdressing is visual, it can and usually does, elicit an immediate reaction. Frequently, the reaction is disapproval based on preconceived ideas and misinformation. The purpose for sharing the following thoughts with you is to facilitate an open and candid discussion of crossdressing. It is not intended as a bible of attitudes that we would have you parrot; but we do want to arm you with the best available information on the subject. We hope to help you to shed some light on the subject and eliminate some of the misinformation. Wives, family and friends of crossdressers often have difficulty understanding and coping with this phenomenon. We also know that there are tens of thousands, perhaps even a million, crossdressers out there - many living in fear with guilt or overwhelming anxiety. Our message is to reassure all of you. You are not alone! You can successfully cope with your situation! Finally, we want the public to know that the vast majority of all crossdressers are decent, respectable, accomplished people who seek tolerance and understanding.

We strongly recommend contact with a support group that welcomes crossdressers and their wives or partners. Prominent among these are several national organizations:

The International Foundation for Gender Education (I.F.G.E.), 123 Moody Street, Waltham, MA 02154  
The Renaissance Education Association, Inc., P.O. Box 60552, King of Prussia, PA 19406  
The Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess),

P.O. Box 9573, Long Beach, CA 90810.

### BACKGROUND:

The psychology of crossdressing is extremely complex. Even the helping professionals ( counsellors, therapists, psychiatrists, psychologists, etc.) do not agree as to what causes crossdressing. Some helping professionals estimate that 1 to 3 percent of adult males are, or have, engaged in some form of crossdressing. Therefore, there may be as many as one million crossdressers in the U.S. Other professionals believe this estimate to be exaggerated and the true number of cross-dressers may only be 300,00 to 400,000. No one really knows. Hard data is not readily available because most crossdressers lead a relatively quiet life of secrecy, fearing discovery which may lead to rejection, ridicule, embarrassment or humiliation.

Helping professionals see only the tip of the iceberg when they work with those members of the crossdressing community in a crisis or who seek counselling.

While hard facts are scarce, those knowledgeable about crossdressing in our society suggest that the following are "safe" observations:

***Crossdressers come from all walks of life...***

all social / economic groups; all races; all creeds; all nationalities; all religions; and all ethnic groups.

Crossdressers can be found in all businesses, professions, occupations and trades. Many are well educated and have a wide variety of interests. Many are community leaders. They reflect a broad cross section of our

society.

Crossdressers come in all sizes, shapes and ages. Some are quite attractive when dressed. Others have difficulty in creating a feminine image. Most are not effeminate in manners or looks when not crossdressed.

Crossdressers generally start early in life; usually (though not always) in childhood. By teen or preteen age, crossdressing is generally well established, but suppressed. Crossdressing is not catching; it cannot be started or acquired later in life.

Most young crossdressers are not aware that there are others like themselves out there. They fear discovery and with it rejection. they mistakenly believe it will go away once they enter a relationship with a woman.

Most crossdressers describe crossdressing as an irresistible compulsion, urge or desire to dress.

Most crossdressers and knowledgeable helping professionals agree that crossdressing can be "controlled" but not "cured." The urge to crossdress stays with the crossdresser for life.

Most crossdressers purge (throw away all their women's clothes) only to have the compulsion or urge to create a wardrobe return months or years later.

Most knowledgeable and experienced helping professionals agree that crossdressing is not an illness. Some suggest that it is a condition such as being born left-handed; while others suggest that the tendency to crossdress emerges from life experiences as part of the socialization process.

Virtually all heterosexual crossdressers are males. Our society more readily accepts women in male clothes than men in female clothes; therefore, since it is accepted, it is not crossdressing.

Donahue.... con't on page 9



# CHIT-CHAT

## CHIT-CHAT

This issue's Chit-Chat is with Ty Morgan, professional make-up artist and drag performer.

**Illusions: How did you get started doing drag? Did you ever do any dressing up before that?**

I had always thought about it, even as a kid. In school I dabbled in theatre, and at Hallowe'en I dressed up as a girl. Thank heavens nobody has those pictures! Green eyeshadow and the whole bit (but I was very young then). Then when I was about 16 I saw Sandy St. Peters and DeeDee Drew (Drew Taylor) and got hooked on the idea. I ended up working with Sandy for about six months and she trained me and took me away. She was my big influence.

**Illusions: What attracted you to drag? How important is the femininity aspect versus the attention you attract?**

It was definitely being the centre of attention. It also looked so glamorous, and I've always been sort of Hollywood-struck. Anyone who had any part of that was good enough for me. Unfortunately, at that young age the attention went to my head and I got very stuck up, wouldn't talk to people and all that. It took a while to grow out of that.

**Illusions: How long did you tour professionally? What was that like?**

About three years across Canada and sometimes into the States. It's a tough grind, but also fun to be a celebrity, even in a small way. For example, once Devon Mills and I went into the

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general store in a very small town in Saskatchewan after our first night and the cashier asked us if we had seen "those female impersonators" over at the bar. When we told her that we were "those female impersonators", she proceeded to call everyone in the store over to talk to us. It's easy to forget that meeting you can be a big deal to people who normally would never meet anyone in the entertainment biz.

**Illusions: Who are your favorite women to imitate?**

I enjoy them all, but my favorite is Bette Midler. She's so bawdy and outrageous. Not at all like me (ha, ha).

**Illusions: Do you try to imitate the original performer or come up with your own interpretation?**

You have to capture some essential aspect of that person to bring it to the audience's mind, but you usually put your own spin on it, too.

**Illusions: Why do you think drag and crossdressing seem to crop up in movies so much lately?**

I don't think it's anything new; it seems to happen every five or six years. In the early 80s there was Victor Victoria, then later Tootsie. But it's also more acceptable now, even trendy. When I do a show at a straight bar, often the young guys all want to talk to you and be seen with you by their friends, kind of like a prize.

**Illusions: And of course that wouldn't appeal to you at all...**

Of course not (ha, ha).

**Illusions: Why do drag performers seem to be much more open about what they do than most crossdressers?**

It's more acceptable to others for a gay man to wear a dress than a straight man--in fact, it's what most (uninformed) people probably expect. And it's also easier for the person himself to accept that that's part of what he does to express himself. He's not worried about being labelled gay, he's already accepted that that's what he is.

**Illusions: What separates crowd-pleasing performers from the rest?**

Natural talent helps, but if you look at the people who are quite successful now, Sandy St. Peters, Justine Tyme, newer performers like Scotty Renée, Jamie they've been at it for years. The experience helps, you get more comfortable on stage, and people know you.

**Illusions: What made you decide to stop touring?**

I wasn't managing my career properly and at one point I was spending more than I was making, so when an opportunity to tend bar here in town came up, I took it and did that for five years.

**Illusions: During that time you were elected Empress XIV of the ISCCA. Any memories of your reign that stand out?**

Probably my stepping down ball. I was the last one out of the hospitality suite, so I had to ask Twiggy from Edmonton to paint my face. For 45 minutes all she did was shout at me to sit still. Then my manager Dale Knight came to get me. I had been the Dark Legend Empress, everything in black to contrast with Justine's reign, when she was the Light Empress all in white. For the ball I was dressed as the wicked witch from Snow White, and Dale was sneaking me down a back staircase so we wouldn't be seen till I went on stage. We passed by a wedding party and two little girls all dressed up for the wedding saw me and said, "there's the wicked witch".

Being immediately recognized for what I was by those two little kids just made my night.

**Illusions: What changes have you seen in drag performing over the years?**

The popular subjects used to be the classics like Peggy Lee and Carol Channing, and they will always be done. But nowadays you often have no idea who, if anyone, the younger drag performers are imitating, because a lot of the new artists whose material they use aren't well known. That allows them more freedom to do their own interpretation. Some of the new performers like Jaylene, Miss Tony, Cricket, etc. have tremendous talent, and once they have the kind of experience of the more senior performers, they'll be very tough to top.

**Illusions: How did you decide to get into esthetics?**

I saw another impersonator I knew, Flora Tron, go on to be successful in cosmetics. I had always wanted to be in the beauty industry, but I knew I couldn't stand doing hair. And of course I had some previous experience. The first couple of times I worked with Sandy she did my make-up, then she was going to charge me, so I learned pretty quick. You get to meet a lot of interesting people, models, actors and actresses, musical groups like Farmer's Daughter. Once I was even scheduled to do Cindy Crawford, though that fell through.

**Illusions: What's the main difference between working on male and female clients?**

Usually everyone who comes to see me really wants to learn, but the men are even more inquisitive. Some are experienced performers who just need their face done for a big show due to nerves, but most are novices. They have been desperately seeking a comfortable way of finding out what they need to know, sometimes for decades, and suddenly all their questions come rushing out in a couple of hours. Women have been

bombarded by a lot of advertising and have often developed bad or obsolete habits that need to be broken or updated.

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**Illusions: What are the most common things you work on correcting when crossdressing clients come to you?**

The ABCs. Attitude and Beard Cover. Make-up wise, CDs usually want a more realistic style than stage performers, but that does not mean they should use the same products as a real woman. For example, many have been using liquid foundations because that's all they could get anonymously in a drug store. Even if they ask at a counter, the staff are usually not trained make-up artists (I actually work for Revlon and Ultima II training their counter staff at London Drugs and Shoppers Drug Mart) and certainly don't know how to suggest products for men. We have beards to deal with. If all you use is a liquid, you can be sure your beard does show through. With proper

application, though, even the corrective products needed to cover a heavy beard don't have to look heavy. At the same time I try to cultivate an attitude of confidence. Gay drag performers are very competitive, always trying to outdo one another, but a lot of crossdressers are so very reserved. I try to make them feel comfortable in the studio, have them bring a friend the first time or whatever, have a few laughs. And I encourage them to feel good about their new, improved appearance, to introduce them to people whenever I run into them and encourage them to just go up and say "hi" to people when they're out. I'd like to think I have had some influence on the confidence you see in some of my favorite clients, the Illusions royalty, Teri, Michelle and Qui.

**Illusions: What projects do you have planned for the future?**

Make-up will always be first, that pays the bills. But I have been working on a live show, and I'd like to go on some short tours with Justine, maybe two or three weeks at a time so it doesn't conflict with our main careers.

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**Illusions: And are we going to see more of you at Illusions?**

Whenever I've been there I've been treated very special. And the night Teri was elected, there was an almost magical sense of community and warmth that was present years ago in the court system, when it was the only social organization for the gay community. Everyone obviously had enormous respect for outgoing Empress Lisa. So I'm very happy to say I am now an Illusions member and hope to get to know all the gals over the next year.



# TY MORGAN'S TOP 10 PERFORMANCE HINTS FOR LIP-SYNCH DIVAS

The packed slate at the Girls of Summer seems to indicate a surge of interest in lip-synching, so we asked long-time drag performer Ty Morgan to give us a few insights drawn from his more than a decade of professional experience on stage. Here, then, is the collected wisdom of Ty Morgan on how to wow crowds:

1. Avoid ballads. If your audience wanted to get depressed, they wouldn't come to see you--they'd buy an old country album and a bottle of Jack Daniels or tune in to the 6 o'clock news. Choose short, catchy upbeat tunes.
2. Play to your strengths. If you can dance, choose a number that will show off your fancy footwork. If you can't, choose one that will show off your facial expressions, hand movements, body poses, or whatever else you're good at.
3. Adapt to the venue. There's no use working out elaborate choreography if it will put you into the second row because the stage is too small (you're not supposed to take the show-biz saying "break a leg!" literally!). On the other hand, if you've got a big stage, work the whole area to strut your stuff.
4. Remember, sex and humour sell. Flirt, insert a little gag movement or a fun prop. One good laugh can be enough to make an otherwise ordinary performance memorable.
5. Know the words! You have to know the song well enough to sing it off by heart to keep in synch, which is the key to believability (and believability is next to godliness in this business!).
6. Make a dramatic entrance. If possible, don't be seen until you step on stage, or at least don't be seen in the same outfit. Wear something eye-catching to get the audience's interest--then try to retain it with your performance.
7. Mouth the words, don't sing them. If you want to try out vocals, do karaoke. Even soft singing can often be heard in the front rows. (Two hours of makeup may make you look like Madonna, but it won't make you sound like her!)
8. Keep moving! Just because they call it lip synch doesn't mean that's the only part of you that can move. Movement draws and retains the audience's attention--and will usually help to cover up minor faults in synchronization with the music.
9. Interact with the audience. Remember, you're not alone. Make eye contact and where appropriate pretend to be singing to specific people in the front rows.
10. Exude confidence, no matter how terrified you may be inside. Worry about analyzing your performance and learning from any problems later--have fun for those three minutes when you're the centre of attention!

As a final tip, know the where all the emergency exits are, just in case items 1-10 don't work!

## Would you like to advertise your business or service in this magazine?

This publication reaches hundreds of enthusiastic TV's, TS's and friends across Canada and the United States.

Call (403) 236 7072 For complete details

Target your customers with us!

Business Card - \$20 1/4 Page - \$40 1/2 Page - \$65 Full Page - \$80

Donahue.....from page 5

## CROSSDRESSING AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION

The greatest myth of crossdressing is that all crossdressers are homosexual. Crossdressers and knowledgeable helping professionals know that 75 to 80 percent of all crossdressers are heterosexual. The public assumes that all crossdressers are homosexual because homosexual crossdressers are more visible; on the street, in the media, or in the theatre.

Heterosexual crossdressers fear discovery which may lead to ridicule or rejection; therefore, they tend to avoid public places or they may keep their crossdressing a secret - sometimes even from their wives and family. They almost always keep the knowledge from their non crossdressing friends, acquaintances and fellow workers. There are, of course, exceptions with mixed results of acceptance.

Crossdressers frequently draw a distinction between sexual orientation and gender preference.

Sexual orientation refers to those to whom they are physically attracted; while gender preference refers to the gender they wish to be identified with. Generally, people are confused by this distinction, and this confusion underlies much of the misunderstanding which accompanies crossdressing behaviour in our society.

Crossdressers are not to be confused with transsexuals. Transsexuals believe that they are trapped in the wrong body, and they seek to physically alter their body to conform to the core gender identification which resides in their minds. Transsexuals do not consider themselves to be crossdressers, and they resist the suggestion. Crossdressers know their true sex (their sense of maleness), and have no desire to alter their body. This is another distinction which many people find difficult to understand.

## CROSSDRESSERS AND THE FAMILY

Wives, particularly those who find out after marriage (sometimes many years after), frequently have trouble understanding or coping with their partner's desire to crossdress. They fear that their husband may be homosexual, bisexual, or transsexual. They also fear that their husband may leave them or reject them as a partner. Wives also fear that their children will be adversely affected. And, they fear that an "out - of - control" crossdresser will spend too much time, money and effort on his crossdressing to the detriment of the family. Often, they say to themselves: "There goes the vacation money."

"He does not spend enough time with me or the children." "I need a new dress and he buys one for himself."

*Wives sometimes feel that they are at fault for his desire to crossdress. They say: "What did I do wrong?" "Doesn't he find me attractive enough?"*

It is recommended that: Crossdressers inform their partners early on in a committed relationship - preferably before marriage.

Crossdressing not be done in the presence of young children, pre and early teens. Families are in the best position to determine when to share this information with children, and many report that the information is well accepted by children in the middle to late adolescent years.

Crossdressers seek professional help and peer support when they feel their lives are getting "out - of - control."

Crossdressers reassure their partner that she is not to blame for his compulsion or urge to dress. In

virtually all cases, the desire to dress began long before she entered his life.

Crossdressers learn to compromise with regard to when, where and how they dress. It is important to listen to one's partner with regard to her wishes concerning crossdressing. For example, the behaviour should not be brought to the bedroom, if ones partner does not wish it to be there.

As in all relationships, crossdressers need to have open lines of communication with their partners, and both should freely express their love and affection for each other. It is also recommended that wives and committed partners of cross-dressers seek contact with the wives and partners of other crossdressers for mutual support and understanding. On the other hand, a wife or partner should not expect a crossdresser to simply stop his dressing "if he really loves me."

In most cases, the compulsion or urge was there before she entered his life; it is too strong and has nothing to do with the love relationship. There are many wives and partners who really enjoy their partner's crossdressing. It can add fantasy, fun and excitement to the relationship.

Reprinted from "The Media Guide." Published by the International Foundation for Gender Education.

## VIVA LA TRANSVESTITE!

**a** 42-year-old openly gay transvestite has been elected to city council in Colonia do Piaui, Brazil. Katia Nogueira Tapeti, who campaigned on bicycle and foot, has become the state's most popular politician.

Tapeti is known in the state as an elected official who gives back to the community, by giving talks on AIDS, assisting in childbirth and looking after children in a local daycare centre.



# Gals Up North...

Things have once again been busy in Edmonton these past two months. Interest in the club in Edmonton seemed to pick up after it became known we had a place to call home. The summer, which can be a slow period, showed more members than usual attending the socials in July and August.

The I.S.C.W.R. Ball held on August 19th had an even bigger turnout for the ILLUSIONS girls, thanks in part to the presence of Princesses Michelle, Jacqui and others from the south.

The performances seen were good and some were even fantastic! Everyone had a great time at the ball and the party afterwards at the hospitality room. Some of us girls, feeling brave, also decided to walk down Jasper Avenue on the way to the Roost (a local club supportive of us TV/TS's). What a thrill it was to walk down THE major street of downtown Edmonton all dressed up! (way to go Michelle, Dana, Karrie, Rachael, Roxy and Brenda). This event was so much fun that we are already looking forward to next year's Ball.

In the meantime, we are hoping to get a group together to go down to the social in Red Deer in September. We are already working on holding a gala of sorts sometime early in the new year. Stay tuned for details. The girls in Edmonton would like once again to thank all the members from down south that came up for the Ball.

After having started to spruce up our new meeting place, we found ourselves again looking for a new place just days before the Ball. All is not lost however, as we have already lined up several possibilities and should know soon, where our new meeting place will be.

THE GIRLS OF EDMONTON

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Tell us what you think of our magazine. Tell us about yourself

## The Pink Highway

By PrincessV Michelle

Once and a while a few of the "Illusions Gals" get it together and do a road trip to visit CD friends that live in other parts Alberta. So Illusions Princess's Michelle and Jacqui, with their significant others in tow, packed their bags and went to Edmonton! Our purpose was to party

with the girls from the Edmonton chapter of Illusions, who were planning a gala night out at the ISCWR Coronation Ball which was being held at the Edmonton Convention Centre!

We planned to travel as far as Red Deer on Friday night and meet Dana, Kerry and Sandy for a night out at The Other Place. Jacqui and I packed all our luggage in the trunk of Jacqui's car and then stood around scratching our heads wondering where to put our wives luggage. HMM! Well we worked it out, made it to Red Deer, got dressed and had great evening visiting with old and new friends! Jacqui, Dana and yours truly put on a show for them at 11.30 PM. which was well received! Doug the bar owner gave all the performers some free

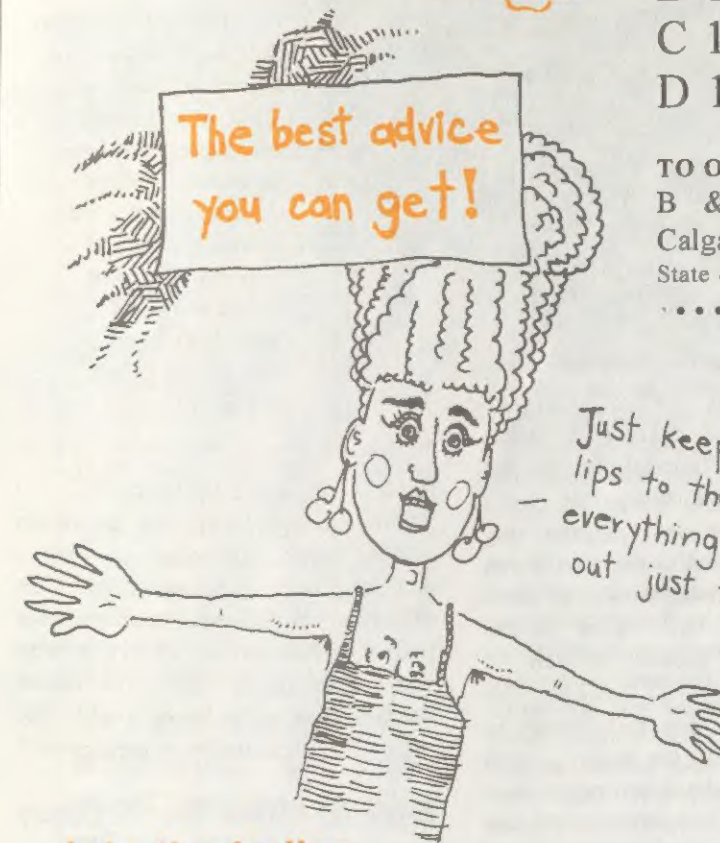
shooters in appreciation..see, being a "Show Grrrl" can have some advantages!

Next morning we were off to meet the "Illusions Gals" from Edmonton. They had rented a beautiful hospitality suite at the Quality Hotel and at 2.30 PM the "Gals" hosted a neat little Wine and Cheese Social and then at 4.30 we went down to the lobby and took taxis to the Convention Centre! We had a riot parading down four flights of escalators enroute to our final destination. To mark the occasion, Rachel, Pauline, Bea and Myself stopped and had a commissionaire take a picture of us in our Ball outfits. He was a great sport and decided that he should take two..just in case the first one didn't turn out!

Continued on page 13 Pink Highway

## SPEED BUMP

By Dave Coverly



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# DRESS SHOP

*Offers Manly Fit*

Barbie Anderson fusses proudly over her latest creation - a long, black, form-fitting sequined gown with ostrich feather trim - and says she'll be sad to see it go. "It's being picked up by a transvestite at noon," says the award winning seamstress with a sigh. "I almost wish I could keep it for myself."

Anderson, who won first place in last year's Calgary Stampede Creative Living Handicrafts category for a wedding dress design, sells clothing to people who, well, don't exactly fit your average rack size.

Called Lingerie by Barbie, the southeast custom design clothing shop caters to a broad cross section of people -- including local transsexuals, drag queens and transvestites. Crossdressers also make up a significant portion of her clientele.

"I couldn't count the number of crossdressers who have blown through these doors," Anderson says. "Probably thousands. Or more. We do a huge mail order business."

One of those thousands, "Christine," leans over the counter and casually twists her rings with perfectly manicured nails. The sweet smell of Shiseido perfume hangs in the air around her. Only when she speaks is the illusion broken. "I've got one of Barbie's two-piece business suits," she says, her voice distinctly male. "But I've also worn one of her ball gowns." Wearing a brown wig, mascara and a plum coloured lipstick, Christine says it's impossible to get women's clothes that fit a man's form. "We're longer in the waist and the waist bands always end up being by our ribs," she says.

"As well some of the guys are pretty big people, they have a job finding clothes that aren't frumpy." But Christine says Anderson's shop is about more than quality clothing, it's a safe environment for men like him. "We feel comfortable here, we're not

made to feel like an oddity," she says. "Barbie's not judgemental and she goes out of her way to make you feel at ease."

Not everybody understands a man's desire to want to dress like a woman. This is evidenced by the numbers of extremely anxious men who arrive at Anderson's shop looking for women's attire.

"Let's say a fellow from an oil company comes in and he wants a corset or a french maids outfit," Anderson says. "He's really scared because he thinks people at the office might find out. I usually tell him to relax because he's one of hundreds to walk through my doors making the same request."



Lynn Sloane is a Calgary psychologist who deals with sexual identity issues. Although she couldn't quote exact statistics, she says Anderson's "one in ten men are crossdressers" estimate is way too high. "But crossdressers are more prevalent than what most people would suspect because it can be hidden," Sloane says. "You can be an oil executive by day and dressed in women's clothing by night." And those who crossdress can range from welders to lawyers. When crossdressing comes to the attention of a clinician, she says, it's diagnosed under the category of "fetish." As far

as she's concerned, crossdressing is a disorder only if it's causing personal problems. "There's a lot of secrecy involved," she says. "There are a lot of wives who would be really uncomfortable with the idea that their husbands are crossdressing. Keeping a secret like that can take its toll."

"Otherwise, she says, she likes to view sexuality as though all men and women are dual - natured to different degrees.

**"There's a man in every woman and a woman in every man."**

It's artificial to assume that we're all one or the other," she says.

"We need to take a multi-gendered look at society. We're dichotomized in the extreme. I mean why do we have so many people who don't fit in one or the other category?"

Back at Lingerie by Barbie - where customers can buy cosmetics and a variety of wigs as well - Anderson says seamstress isn't her only role. "I become a counsellor for people. For almost everyone who walks through the door, I'm almost the first person they've ever told," she says. "Confidentiality is paramount."

Reprinted from the *Calgary Herald*, Sat, June 24th, 1995.

Article by Kim Heinrich.

## The Pink Highway

from page 10

The ISCWR treated it's quests to an excellent Coronation Ball! Everything was fabulous from beginning to end and the performance was some of the best I have seen to date. Early in the festivities, the Illusions Social Club was officially presented to the Edmonton Court. Amid a musical fanfare during which all our names were announced to the audience, we were duly presented on stage to the "Royalty" of the ISCWR! Later in the evening Empress "Donna Du Ya Wanna" and Emperor "Billy" of the Calgary Court came and visited with us at our tables for a while. Both the Calgary and Edmonton Courts have been making an effort to make us welcome at their events, one only hopes they know how much we appreciate it! It was a great evening that got even better...at midnight we left the Ball to go back to the hospitality suite. Later, we got a group together and walked down Jasper Avenue to the "Roost", which is one of the Edmonton Clubs open to crossdressers. Our "Glamorous" evening attire pre-empted any blending in with sidewalk crowd and we received some major attitude most of our walk, but on entering the sanctuary of the "Roost", life became just fine once again! The next morning we all got together for brunch and good byes. SOB!! The journey home was a quiet one...I guess we were partied out. It was fun for us to help support the new efforts of the Edmonton Chapter to get more events organised for themselves in the Edmonton area. So, thanks "Gals", you organised a great evening and we had a real good time!

**If you have had any fun, on the road experiences let us know.**

*From Princess V Michelle*

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I have to eat some HUMBLE PIE because I forgot to say something very elementary in my last column! Something as easy to say as one, two, three and should be second nature to someone my age by now! I forgot to say THANKS to all those who supported and voted for me! So Thank You all, as the "Wicked Princess of the South", I am having a ball being 1st Princess V!

I know that I keep repeating over and over again what wonderful experience joining Illusions has been and just like an ever expanding pot of hot boiling milk overflowing on the stove even after the heat has been turned down, it seems impossible for me to stop explaining the satisfaction of my experience! Over the past while, I have had the pleasure of seeing other new members wiggle their BUTTS into the club...awe yes...all wide eyed and in total awe of everyone and every thing! For some reason, that reminds me of ME!

When I walked into the "PINK PALACE" for the first time, my mind was

both open and closed at the same time! Open and craving a new experience, one that would work for me and closed due to a lifetime of being an expert at suppressing my true feelings! Christine showed me the social room on my arrival my first question was, can we smoke in here? Hey, now there is a question! The answer was... you can do anything you want in here as long as it isn't sexual and...you park your baggage at the door! It turns out that I had a lot of baggage and it was ALL personal! Everyone needs to feel good about themselves, we need to feel wanted and that as a personality that we do have something worthwhile to offer others! Without the fulfilment of such a very basic human emotion...how can we feel a sense of self worth! I wonder if a feeling of self worth isn't a prelude to also acquiring self esteem and if both of these things aren't the required tenants of "SERENITY" ...which it seems to me is a personal goal for most of us and something that we all think can lead to a happy life! I suppose it depends on how you look at it and then again... on maybe even how you live it!

My experience at Illusions has been one of personal growth, my joy has been the discovery that I am not alone in my journey, my pleasure is that I have become a helpful part of the beginnings of the journeys of some new friends and my point is that is that we should ALL be able to be in this very same position and find some satisfaction in it...if we will just park our baggage at the door and do what comes naturally to us as human beings! Yet, there is some disappointment, but it rests with me, it is my own inability to address the needs of the friends that I have left behind as I proceed! I know that what I need to do is to invite the best of them to join me as I work my way into the future! I know that it is hard to do...well tell me about it will ya...but my old Dad always said...You know, the hardest thing about doing somethings is thinking about it, and you know...it turns out he was right! And don't you know what my old Dad was really saying... first you DREAM and then you ACT! So, there you go...the "GOSPEL" according to Michelle...and her old Dad! ...Bye, I'm outa' here...till next time gang!

Princess Michelle is 1st Princess of the Illusions V Royalty. Empress V Teri.



# THRONE SPEECH

I have a very vivid memory of the evening I met Princess Michelle. I think it was her first time at the club, and I remember thinking, "Boy, I wish I had a face (and petite figure) like that!" But her story also struck me, because she said she had followed the club through the magazine for a couple of years before getting up the nerve to join. The thought that someone wouldn't join as soon as they found out about the club had never occurred to me! Later I remember hearing of a letter from someone who had driven to the club, but had felt discouraged about her appearance when she saw a few well-turned out members coming in. She ended up going home without coming in.

Since CDs have a thing about appearances even by definition, we often end up with a variety of hang-ups. If you're a potential new member, you can be sure of a warm welcome even if you feel you still have a lot to learn: how else are you going to learn but by meeting others who have been trying to do the same thing as you! We've all been there. For most of us it wasn't so long ago that the only thing we had figured out about eyeshadow was that it must go **somewhere** around the eye! Illusions is a place where you can learn as much as you want as fast as you can assimilate it--if you want to. No one will pressure you to. Making sure **everyone** feels comfortable is the most important thing here.

Even after we've been

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around for a while and figured out a few things, though, we often end up with hang-ups, like being obsessed with passing and feeling discouraged when we don't pull it off. A pen-pal of mine from Virginia wrote a great article about how upset she was when their group was "read" at a play, even though the reaction was positive and resulted in an invitation to a great party. She realized afterwards that maybe being upset was making too much out of the situation and just prevented her from fully enjoying the opportunities the evening offered.

Most CDs would like to pass everywhere, but for many of us, this proves an elusive objective. I'm 6'8" in heels (or, as I prefer to think of it, 5'20"), so the only place I'm going to pass close up is a reunion of former East German women's basketball team members. Everyone has her own particular problems: I'm sure we've all commiserated over these often enough to know the list.

When I first joined Illusions my desire for "passability" limited the clothes I would wear to those I thought would be least likely to draw attention to myself. I was scared to be noticed, fearing people would think I was conceited or that I would fit the stereotype of

the loudly overdressed CD. Gradually, though, I realized I wasn't going into Safeway for a bag of turnips, so why should I try and look like one? The colours got brighter, the fit tighter and the hemlines higher. A whole new, more outgoing persona emerged. Now it doesn't bother me to be noticed when I go out; in fact, I love it (almost as much as staring at myself in the mirror--and that's saying something, as Ty Morgan will testify!).

Personally, I think appropriateness is often a more useful goal than passability. Wearing what's appropriate to your physical characteristics flatters what you've got, and what's appropriate to the occasion ensures you don't end up looking like a fish out of water. If you're one of the fortunate few who really have the looks to pass easily, consider yourself lucky (and pick up a bag of turnips for me while you're in Safeway). But if you're not so blessed, remember you don't have to look **passable** to look **great**! If you're already "out", don't let fear of being noticed hold you back. And if you're still in the closet, don't let the conclusion you're never going to look like the girl next door keep you from taking that first step and joining us. Life is too short, and the one thing we all have in common is, we ain't gettin' any younger, gals!

Love Terry.

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# TERI'S TOP 10 ADVANTAGES OF BEING EMPRESS OF ILLUSIONS

10. Sleepovers at Buckingham Palace.
9. Portrait to be on loonie (as soon as it reaches par with US \$)
8. Absolute immunity from Multanova radar cameras (currently under appeal).
7. Get a crown on my head no matter what brand of margarine I use.
6. Now have good excuse for the rhinestone-studded "throne" in my apartment, if you know what I mean.
5. Get to keep any change that drops from pockets of subjects as they bow and scrape.
4. Twinkling of crown prevents unpleasant encounters with low-flying aircraft.
3. Flashes from cameras of paparazzi provide safe, UV-free alternative to tanning salons.
2. Double Air Miles with every purchase.
1. Chuck and Di ain't part of this royal family!

CALGARY PREMIERE  
9:45 pm  
WIGSTOCK: THE MOVIE

# UPTOWN SCREEN

September '95

### Wigstock: The Movie

A celebration of life, liberty and the pursuit of big hair, this film is like a real life version of PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT. Wigstock is the annual New York City musical festival dedicated to the spirit of camp and cross-dressing. Now, this "Super Bowl of drag" has been captured on celluloid in WIGSTOCK: THE MOVIE, a hilariously eye-popping look behind the scenes at the gender bending performers whose penchant for all things glamorous has made the festival a New York Labor Day tradition that regularly attracts an audience of 20,000 curious spectators.

Structured by director Barry Shils as an obvious parody of WOODSTOCK: THE MOVIE, this over the top documentary features Wigstock originator Lady Bunny acting as MC, (mistress of ceremonies) to an endless strutting parade of flamboyantly gay performances. Transvestite supermodel RuPaul sings "Free To Be" and Mistress Formika belts out "You Got to Fight for Your Right to Be Queer." A pair of Tallulah Bankhead impersonators (the Duelling Bankheads) perform a duet and there's a completely off-kilter striptease in which one of the more exhibitionist participants peels off the layers of stiletto heels, sheer silk stockings and foam falsies to reveal his naked male self. With Lady Kier (Deee-lite), Joey Arias, Tabboo, Candice Cayne, Lypsinka, Alexis Arquette and Jackie Beat. Wig Out!

WIGSTOCK: THE MOVIE (USA 1995 82') premieres Sept 20-24 at the Uptown Screen. Premiere prices in effect.



The Uptown Stage and Screen  
is located at 612 8 Ave. S.W.  
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 20  
7:15 pm  
WIGSTOCK: THE MOVIE (USA 1995 82')  
Rating TBA!  
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 21  
FRIDAY  
SATURDAY  
SUNDAY



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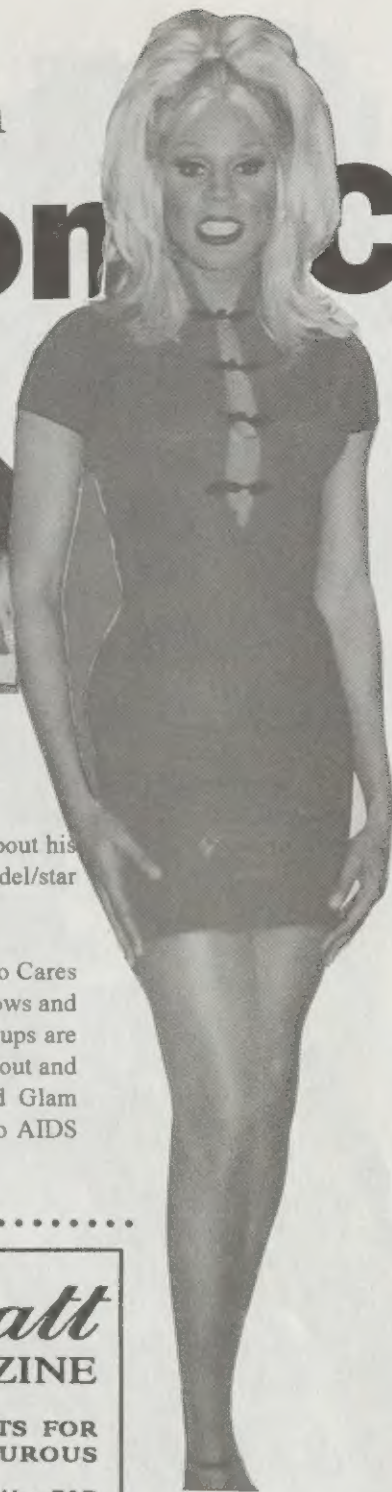
# Girl About Town Fashion Cares Toronto



**RuPaul**

RuPaul, the crossover, cross-dressing celebrity and first ever drag spokesman for a major cosmetics company, MAC, has written a book about himself: *Lettin' It All Hang Out*. It's about his life in dragland and how he reached supermodel/star status. Little, Brown and Company, \$25.95.

RuPaul was also in attendance at the latest Toronto Cares Aids Evening. The evening was full of fashion shows and entertainment from the community. The Aids Groups are encouraging people from all walks of life to come out and support the cause. If you purchase a Viva Red Glam Lipstick from M.A.C., all proceeds are donated to AIDS Research.



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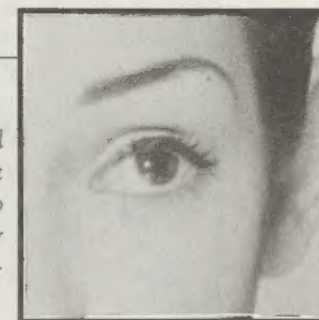
# High Brows



## Brow Blueprint

When designing your perfect arch, don't try to change the innate shape of your brows; it's already framing your face the way it should. The goal is to clean them up and groom them.

- Brush your brows in the direction that they grow.
  - Take the handle of your brow brush and hold it diagonally from the edge of your nostril to the inner corner of your eye, then mark the spot with a white pencil.
  - Hold the brush to the outer edge of your pupil to find the highest point of the arch, and also mark.
  - Fan the handle to the outer corner of the eye and mark.
  - Before tweezing, connect the points with the white pencil—coloring the hair that should be removed. Do not pluck from above the brow unless there are obvious strays—it is your guiding line.
  - Start with the hairs between the eyes, squaring off the inner edge. Next, taper the end of the brow like the point of an arrow. Finish with the arch.
- \*In case of a slip of the wrist, use a brow pencil to feather in color. Or use shadow, applied with a brush, for a softer effect. For high drama, wet your brush and apply the shadow.



## Maintenance.

- Like your hair, your brows need to be brushed. Makeup artist Laura Szucs of the Plutino Group recommends a baby toothbrush for its gentle bristles and easy-to-control short handle.
- Use clear mascara to keep your brows in place. Or recycle your old mascaras by using them for hold—and some color.
- Depending on how fast your hair grows, clean up your creation every couple of days. Maintenance is key—if you keep it up, you'll only have to shape once.
- Hirsute or technically-challenged types can visit an esthetician for a professional shaping, waxing or electrolysis.

## Looking womanly takes time

It takes about two hours for Justine Time to transform himself into Annie Lennox. Or Julie Andrews. Or even Calgary singer Jann Arden.

The 28-year old drag queen, who performs at Club Detour, says looking beautiful takes time.

First, he says, he showers and then shaves his face - but not his legs. Instead, he wears at least two pairs of tights to hide the hair.

He needs 90 minutes to apply makeup and he begins with the eyes. He tapes or glues down his eyebrows to flatten them. On goes the foundation, and then he can create a new eyebrow line with the eyeliner and eyeshadow coming next.

He explains, because the purpose is to alter a man's face, rendering it more feminine, it's necessary to use a lot of makeup in an effective manner.

This includes shading, contouring and highlighting the masculine face to give the illusion of larger cheekbones. For foundation, he uses theatrical makeup.

He then spends at least 30 minutes wriggling into things like waist cinches, falsies, and hip pads.

He says he has to wear custom-made costumes and shoes because of his size. The good news is he never has a bad hair day because he wear wigs that have been prepared beforehand.

By Lyn Cockburn  
Calgary Sun

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**Gay Lines**

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**Attention all Volunteers!**  
Illusions could use your help in the daily cleaning of club facilities, contribution to the library and donations of coffee, cream, and sugar.



Hi! I'm Jacqui, member #295. I can't begin to tell you how very excited I am to be an Illusions Centerfold girl!

## "Illusions" Centerfold - Jacqui

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One of my earliest recollections is of an event that happened when I was about 6 years old. My mother, aunt and grandmother were altering a new dress I was interested in what was going on, so my aunt suggested I try it on. Once I was into the shiny, silky garment, they proceeded to tell me how pretty I was. Grandfather came in the room, laughed, and called me a sissy. From then on, I knew there must be something wrong with any boy who wanted to be a girl.

Unfortunately, I couldn't resist the urge to dress up in girls' clothes. Many of my parents' friends and relatives seemed to make a point of telling me how pretty I was and that I should have been a girl. However, if I indicated any interest in being more like a girl, there was that word again - sissy!

By the age of 10, I'd already developed all the T.V. stereotypes. Every chance I got to be alone, I was sneaking into my mother's room and trying on her clothes. Publicly I was ferociously trying to prove my masculinity. I became a jock. I was not going to let anybody call me a sissy!

When I was 14, our family moved to Calgary. Half the basement became my bedroom and the rest was storage area. My mother stored her clothes there that were out of season. I was in my glory. Every night I'd try on something different. A pair of satin lounging pyjamas became my favourite, I wore them to bed many nights. Always afraid of being caught and embarrassed, I'd get absolutely no sleep.

In the meantime, the boy "Jackie" was becoming a man and now preferred the more masculine appellation "Jack". The sports activities escalated taking on the most physically demanding aspects: hockey, basketball, baseball, track and football. No one was ever going to call me a sissy!, or ever know of my secret life!

I had many periods of self-loathing. I must be crazy! Surely what I'm doing is wrong. When I die I'll burn forever in the fires of Hell. I'd promise myself, "That's it!" But, in a few days or weeks, there was that cedar chest in the corner, beckoning to me.

By grade twelve I'd met the love of my life, Leslie. After graduating business college, I got my first job and proposed marriage. Now I must stop this crazy activity. I couldn't bring myself to disclose this hideous side of myself that would surely drive Leslie away.

Very shortly after our wedding, I mustered the courage to tell her that I enjoyed the feel of her silky nighties and asked to try one on. We laughed and Leslie said she wouldn't mind if I occasionally wore a nightgown to bed.

I decided to press my luck a little farther. One Sunday, I asked if she

would mind if I tried on one of her dresses. She agreed, and I raced to the bedroom. With the dress, I put on make-up and combed my hair in as feminine a manner as I could. I came out to show off, Leslie became visibly upset. I knew that I had gone past her threshold. I could never let her know what dressing up really meant to me. I just couldn't risk losing her.

I continued to dress every chance I got. Being in sales, I'd slip home and dress up for a couple of hours during the day. Still I would have periods of self-hatred. How can I do this? Am I completely nuts? What kind of a pervert am I? When the dislike of myself would reach a peak, I'd swear that I'd never again dress up like a woman, but as soon as something in my life went wrong or the pressures of trying to provide for my growing family mounted, there I was wearing a dress again.

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My latest job provided a unique opportunity. I was asked to help expand their territory by making a monthly trip out of town. These

little excursions gave me the chance to dress up in the hotel. I'd carefully pack my bags out of sight of Leslie and the kids, always managing to put in something feminine for the night to come. On my return, I'd unpack them myself so Leslie wouldn't find anything unexpected.

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One evening in Edmonton, I walked through a shopping plaza. Seeing a Love Shop, I stopped to browse, especially among the lingerie. In the magazine rack I noticed a shapely lady on the front cover of a publication entitled "Illusions". Amazed to find stories about crossdressing, I bought the issue and raced back to the hotel to read them all. On the back cover was an ad telling about a club for crossdressers which, to my utter astonishment, was located in Calgary. I knew right then I had to become a member.

Now for the hard part. I'd have to come clean with Leslie on my real desire to crossdress. After 3 days of agonizing over how to tell her, I finally found a time alone with her. Leslie was devastated, and I was convinced we'd not see our 26th anniversary. She felt we'd been living a lie for over a quarter of a century. What else had I been hiding? How could I share the most intimate details of our life with strangers? What terrible things went

on at this club? What kind of people (read perverts) would possibly be there? Suddenly I realized how wrong I'd been to keep this from her, but, now that it was out in the open, how could I hide it away again? Leslie was in tears. Seeing what I had done to her and fearing that she would ask me to leave, I burst into uncontrollable sobbing. Several hours later, we finally agreed that I would go to the club but not ever dress at home.

With the help of other members and through use of the Illusions library, I learned more about crossdressing than I'd ever imagined. I gently tried to persuade Leslie to come to one of the socials, but she steadfastly refused, and each time I went it was hell for both of us.

*"If your Love is Real,*

In September of 1994, we celebrated our 26th anniversary quietly. In mid-October, the night before an Illusions social, Leslie said she would like to attend the meeting with me if it was O.K. The theme for the following night was "Dress for Pleasure". I'd never been to one of these nights, only heard from other members what to expect. Now I was terrified! I'd been saying there was nothing to fear from the people with whom I'd been associating. They were all just normal people who happened to share the desire to crossdress. How to explain this particular night? I couldn't say, "No, you can't come."

The next night we both nervously got into the car. I was still dressing

at the club so, on our arrival, I got Leslie seated and excused myself to go change. I was very happy to return to find her talking with several members about their need to crossdress.

The evening was going well when she asked, "Would it be O.K. if I came to the Saturday meetings each month?" Stunned, I replied, "Of course!". On our way home that night, Leslie again opened up the conversation with, "Do you think it would be all right if I came to all the meetings at Illusions?". I couldn't believe my ears!

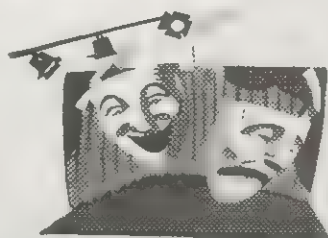
Now, a year later, this wonderful woman has helped me: pick out women's clothes, run for Empress of Illusions, and attended the Coronation Balls in both Calgary and Edmonton, even joined me on stage at the "Girls of Summer" to perform a lipsync number. Our love for each other has grown even stronger.

If there is one thing I can impart to all of you who read this article, it is please don't waste precious years hiding this very significant part of your being from your loved ones. If your love is real, it can withstand anything.

Thanks to the wonderful people I've met at Illusions, I'm now proud of who I am. I'm happy to be called Jacqui, I'm proud to be the 2nd Princess of Illusions, and I am committed to helping others come to terms with this lifestyle.

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# Social News

As I'm sure everyone knows by now, the Girls of Summer was a great success (read all about it in Princess Michelle's article if you missed it). Special thanks to everyone who helped out on or performed at this special event, particularly lead organizer Princess Michelle. Financial wizard(ess) Princess Jacqui has computerized our accounting and informs us we made over \$250 towards our Social Committee fund that night!

The end of summer generally means more people want to get out and do things. Everyone is back from holidays, and it's cooler and darker earlier (the darker it gets, the better I look—in fact, when it's absolutely pitch dark I look just like Raquel Welch!). Well, have we got a line up for you! Besides in-club events, we'll be organizing more outside expeditions than ever to expand our world. Some of the details need to be nailed down yet, so keep your ears open at the socials or give me (Teri) a call (that's why I gave you all those cards with my number!).

Two movies on CD/drag themes will be showing soon, "To Wong Foo" and "Wigstock". We'll be organizing an expedition to one or both of these Sept 23, call Teri for details (theatre schedules weren't out by press time). The October Saturday Social (on the 14th) will be our annual "Dress for Pleasure" event. Cast off your inhibitions, let your fantasies run wild and go for broke! Lingerie, hooker-style, thigh high boots, latex, or whatever turns you on. We'll also be having lip synch or karaoke that night, so start practising. This will get you into the spirit for Hallowe'en, which we'll celebrate with Teri's chocolates (among other surprises) on the Thursday Social, October 26. We'll also be organizing an expedition to a Hallowe'en Costume Party for Hallowe'en itself (probably Saturday, the 29th, again, call Teri for details). Let's show the "straight" world what dressing up really means!

November's Saturday Social (the 11th) will feature Bingo, so get out your daubers and lucky rabbit's feet and come on down! There will be a big CD convention out in Kananaskis the following week, so a group will be heading out there for the mixer on Friday the 17th (see Jacqui at one of the socials for more details).

We won't be forgetting education, either. Rachel will be doing a couple of esthetics demos at the Thursday socials, featuring waxing (Sept 28) and nails (Nov 30).

And if you survive all that, there's the annual Christmas pot-luck December 16! (Start your diets now to be ready!)

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Thankyou Princess V Michelle  
for your help in putting this  
magazine together!

## HOW DO YOU DO IT?

### Part I: Beard Cover & Foundation

This is the first of (hopefully) several instalments in which we will find out the beauty secrets of various Illusions members by asking them how they do different parts of their feminization process. We begin with one of the most critical parts: good beard cover. Nothing will give you away faster than five o'clock shadow, so be sure to start with the closest shave you can get without removing large divots of skin (besides being painful, bloody wounds are hard to cover up!). Also be sure to sterilize before applying makeup to avoid skin irritation. Then, if you're not satisfied with what you're doing now, why not try one of these techniques?

### PRINCESS MICHELLE

Beard? What beard? It's more like a 45-year old wire brush that most would consider an insurmountable obstacle...well...NOT! First I soak my whole face for 20 minutes in steaming hot towels. Then, using a Gillette Sensor razor, I shave and then gently back shave again (overly aggressive back shaving can lead to serious skin damage!) Next I moisturize, let my face cool for 20 minutes and sponge on Five-O shades FS1 or FS3 beard cover. I pat it on all over and then it's powder time. Powder is a Grrrl's best friend, but I have to hold my breath or my nose itches all night! I have a soft, three-inch pad for applying the powder and I puff it all over until I look like a ghost. Then I take the pad and push the powder into the beard cover...and I push HARD, making faces to open up my wrinkles and allow the powder to be worked into them. The setting powder stabilizes the beard cover and prevents it from bleeding through your foundation and giving you that shiny, oily look later in the evening. I gently brush the extra powder off with a big fluffy brush and then apply Max Factor High Definition liquid foundation over my beard cover using a special sponge. All areas that will be exposed for the evening require proper attention including behind my ears. After it dries I'm ready to start contouring and highlighting, etc...but that's another story... "BOY! Being a GRRRL is a lot of work, ain't it?!"

### KRYSTAL STEELE

I don't actually use a "beard cover" per se, the stuff I use is, well, remember that stuff you used to make as a kid with flour and water? Just kidding. But not about not using beard cover. I use a beige "tattoo cover" (code #5801). It will work on any colour beard because it is made to cover tattoos, which usually have a range of colours. I get it from a place in Vancouver called "Act II", but local tattoo shops might know where to get it locally. This stuff works so well that you don't have to cake it on and since it is such a realistic skin tone colour to start with, there are nights when I don't even bother with additional foundation over top of it. I just blend it up onto the cheeks. When I do use foundation it is "Cinema Secrets" #16 from John Cox Studio. What you use for foundation is a distant second in importance to what you use for beard cover. The key is to use just enough to conceal the shade of colour left on your face after a close, close shave. You don't need to cover your face like a second skin. The powder to use on your beard cover/foundation must be translucent, meaning need to cover your face like a second skin. The powder to use on your beard cover/foundation must be translucent, meaning need to cover your face like a second skin. The powder to use on your beard cover/foundation must be translucent, meaning need to cover your face like a second skin. The powder to use on your beard cover/foundation must be translucent, meaning need to cover your face like a second skin. Those little compacts are only for little non-shiny. It should be loose powder that you put on with a larger powder puff. Those little compacts are only for little touch-ups during the night. After brushing away any excess powder, I apply a very small amount of pale rouge with a large, soft brush to give my face some colour, so as to not look too "ghostly". If anyone would like to ask my advice on what they are using, don't be shy!

### EMPRESS TERI

I start by applying Mehron CreamBlend Stick Makeup (soft beige) to the beard area with even strokes that just touch each other. Then, using a slightly dampened Shiseido makeup sponge (available at the Bay), I dab Anthony Braden "Most Natural" colour Hideaway Corrective Cover-up (lighter in consistency than Mehron, but the same colour) on the non-beard areas. I use that sponge with a small amount of the Anthony Braden to blend the foundation by lightly dabbing it everywhere to ensure the base is applied evenly. Often I add a few more strokes of the Mehron to the beard area, and again blend with the sponge. Then comes the messy part: I use a velour powder puff to apply a liberal amount of a light pink Stein's powder (custom-blended for me so that when it combines with the foundation it matches my natural complexion, which is very pale). I use tons of powder, so I look like a ghost at first. Then I press the powder in firmly with the puff and sweep away any excess with a big fluffy brush. Finally I take a very slightly damp washcloth and gently press it over the entire face bit by bit. I get the Mehron, Anthony Braden and Stein's powder from Ty Morgan. My beard is fast-growing but fairly light in colour, so this base will last me over 12 hours, with occasional touch-up powderings to avoid getting shiny.

\*\*\*\*\*  
In future instalments we'll ask other members about their secrets for simulating cleavage, accenting eyes, getting false nails to stay on, and other cross-dressing mysteries. Let us know if there is something you'd like to find out, but are too shy to ask!



# CO-INCIDENCE ???

..... Maybe ..... More likely ""Merritt Melodies" or "Loony Tunes"

MERRITT MORNING MIRROR; July 31, 1995.

"The Mirror has touched upon or inclined toward many of the foregoing (referring to an earlier quote from the play Rosenkrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead...ed.) , with the exception of transvestite melodrama. Therefore, loathe to leave to leave unturn'd any stone, The mirror hereby extends an open invitation to any and all transvestites, domestic or tourist: if you are in circumstances melodramatic ... please call."

The first bit of publicity as the "Army of Priscilla" goes west in the flagship "Lisa Marie". The adventurers were Dana, Sonya, and Gina with the purpose of getting Sonya to her 25 year high school reunion and then on to Vancouver. While at the reunion in Salmon Arm and while informing her class of Sonya's desire for SRS, they meet Barb and her partner Gord (publisher of Merritt Morning Mirror) who days before sent out his plea for a transvestite. Ask and ye shall receive .....Three!

MERRITT MORNING MIRROR; August 2, 1995.

Monday's Mirror lamented never having printed a 'transvestite melodrama' and invited any transvestite in melodramatic circumstances to call. Tuesday, 3 cross-dressers in a van full of Barbie dolls Showed up. See picture in Merritt News; story in Friday's Merritt Morning Macho Mirror.

Between newspaper articles the "Girls" were warmly received and the van wasn't even spray bombed! Gord took our demure representatives out for lunch at the local hotel and met up with a pair of young writers who were interested in their voyage, etc. A photographer appeared and faster than you could say "Photo Op" they were arranged in the lobby for a short trans-session, the fruit of which was put into the August 4, 1995 issue of the Merritt Morning Mirror. Here for your reading pleasure is that article written by the Immaculate Host Gord after the departure from the lovely hamlet of Merritt

MERRITT MORNING MIRROR; August 4, 1995

"Men who dress as women!"- on the next Oprah (but surely not in Merritt, right? - wronnnngg')

So... Monday's Mirror put out a call for transvestites. Just a throw-away line; you figure the odds

That same day the Chairman of the Board of Reflectors returned from a 25 year class re-union in Salmon Arm. She sez, "One of my classmates, the school basketball star, is undergoing a sex change. He's passing through to

Continued on Next Page

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They left town in their van full of Barbie-Dolls, Do - Me pumps and sequined frocks, singing along to Don't Whiz On The Electric Fence Mirror-Guy? After this little get-together, how did you feel. "I felt like doin' the Time Warp, Buckwheat - a little hop to the left. y'know?... and then you step to the right ... put your hands on your hips, y'know?

LET'S DO THE TIME WARP AGAINNNNN!

## OBSERVATIONS OF THE 2ND PRINCESS...JACQUI

Welcome back from summer vacation! I hope that your summer was as great as mine. Never mind the weather; it was a super time to enjoy being a girl.

Our annual Stampede Barbecue led off the summer, even though the evening was dampened by a few showers, we managed to cook up lots of food for those in attendance. I think every one present had a good time. Special thanks to my wonderful wife, Leslie, for keeping me away from the cooking and ensuring no one was poisoned.

Later that night many of us adjourned to Trax to see a drag show in which your two princesses were lucky enough to perform. I can't speak for Princess Michele, but personally I found it a thrill.

In August, as I'm sure you will read elsewhere in this issue, a few of us went to Edmonton for the I.S.C.W.R. Coronation Ball. We had a ball! Special thanks to Dixie and all the Edmonton girls for making it such a great event. I hope we can set up more occasions when Illusions members from all over the province can get together for some fun times.

While on the subject of thank yous: a special thank you to Kari and Sandy from Red Deer for making us feel so welcome and to Doug at The Other Place for inviting us to stop in on the way to Edmonton. Princess Michele, "Wild & Crazy" Dana and I put on a show for the patrons which was very warmly received. Doug is a super host. Finally, "The Girls of Summer". I had so much fun I hated to see the evening end. Our event drew 60 people for dinner and the show. We saw some tremendous performances and wasn't it fantastic to see wives Brenda, Belle, and Leslie take to the stage! We were treated to first time performances by Sonya and Roxanne. Keep up the good work ladies; it's loads of fun

Love,

Jacqui

## Co-incidence (cont'd from Pg. 24 )

Vancouver, with two crossdresser friends, and I invited them to stop for coffee.

Mirror guy falls off his chair, shows the Chairman Monday's paper. We roll on the floor in glee / Thinking of Jung's synchronicity. (rap journalism)

Cut to: Mirror - Guy's porch, noon Monday. Three gentle men, Ed, Gary, and Dave, as macho-looking as any you'd find in Schmidt's barber-shop discussing trannies and buckshot, are sitting drinking coffee, talking trash.

Cut to: An hour or so later on Mirror-Guys porch, 3 ladies, as feminine-looking as any you'd find in the Cameo Beauty Parlour (the one where the Purple Princess plaits her living). Okay ...now open to picture in Merritt News, p. 17 - there you go: that's Gina on the left (Ed); Sonya (Gary: basketball/soccer/hockey star) center; and Dana (Dave: heavy duty mechanic on the right.) And Mirror guy, looking faintly pensive, seated. Picture taken in the Coldwater where The Mirror treated the trio to lunch. And didn't that slow down the room's conversation! The waitress who served us seemed a tad apprehensive but Marion, bless her lovely little soul, Marion comes along, takes a look at the crew and makes their day when she says, "You're just gorgeous!" We lunch, Ed/Gina goes to the ladies' room(!), we leave.



#366 TY An extremely well known personage in town. If you don't believe me just ask Ty and she'll tell you!

#367 TIFFANY Glad to have finally made contact and all the way from Edmonton to.

#368 RACHEAL A girl from northern Alberta, don't get tar on your shoes honey!

What to make of it all? Number 1: nice people. In drag, out of drag, friendly, funny, considerate people. 2. 80% of cross-dressers are not homosexual (in this case, Dave is heterosexual; Ed, bi-sexual; Gary insists he's asexual (was married 17 years) He's in neutral," says Ed. "I'd call him auto-erotic," says Dave. 3. "What single thing would you like straight people to know?" "That we're not predators," shot back Ed/Gina. "People automatically assume 2 things: that cross-dressers are fags, and that they or their children are threatened. It's just not the case. We stick to our selves; we have our own clubs, our own parties; we pose absolutely no danger to society." 4. Cross-dressers sit down to pee ("And we always leave the seat half-up," sez Dave/Dana.)

Personal bits & pieces: Dave has owned 4 Harleys, and ran a stock car 12 years. Gary was on the Midget Rep hockey team (Salmon Arm), played against Merritt, had to have police escort out of the arena after one game. Ed graduated from Art School years ago and wants to make a feature film. Gary's 43, Dave is older, and Ed, mid thirties. Members of what they call 'Priscilla's Army,' they're also known as General Confusion (Dave/Dana); Major Disaster (Gary/Sonya) & Private Parts (Ed/Gina) or Lois Common-Denominator and Auntie Inflammatory.

#369 WENDY Someone who'll join us from central B.C. from time to tome.

#370 ROBERT Another member from Edmonton who we will see very soon.

#371 DEBBIE A small town Alberta girl looking to reach out and grow.

#372 STEFFI From down under, a Seahorse Society member and contributor to this mag

#373 LINDA An Edmonton lady who enjoys the company of Edmonton cross dressers.



## Letters to Illusions

*Your chance to tell us how  
you feel and how you  
have been*

### A GAL'S FIRST NIGHT OUT

The ILLUSIONS Social Club Birthday event is a very special occasion for all the club members. Especially so for the members running for Empress, and Princesses. It is an exciting evening for everyone who attends, as I found out. Not only was the evening exciting for me, but the whole weekend was a very special time for me. You see it was my first time out amidst people; out in public during day and night. Out with people I had never met before and others I had just met that day. To say I was as nervous as a gal on her first date, is an understatement. Nervous, tense, afraid, scared to death, feeling conspicuously out of place, are all phrases that come to mind. Yet I was excited and eager for the experience.

But let me back up a bit and tell you how it came to be that this gal ventured out into the world as my feminine self. I have suppressed my feminine side, the urge to dress as a woman and to act as a woman, for the better part of my entire life. My feminine side has had to accept less conspicuous roles, this was not easy, it had its consequences too. My wife and a close friend were the only people who were privileged with this knowledge about me. I was encouraged to join ILLUSIONS by them and the reading of the newsletter. Then I was invited to join Michelle Hart and friends in Calgary and attend the 5th Birthday celebration (I met Michelle through the newsletter.) I was assured everybody would be friendly. There would be plenty of help available. My wife in her usual unselfish way insisted I attend, even though she couldn't because of work (bless her heart). Every day she gives me more reasons why I love her so.

So I packed everything I could think of and three times more than was necessary. What any gal would do when going to a special event. Just had to get a new dress for the Birthday occasion. Well, I arrived in Calgary Friday afternoon and met Michelle, Brenda, Sonya and Candace for the first time. Then shortly after that met several other wonderful people. Right from this first meeting, the atmosphere was friendly and helpful. Which helped put at ease this frightened gal's nerves.

Michelle and the other candidates running for Empress were doing a show at the Midnight Cafe Friday evening, so everyone prepared for the night out. We got to the cafe about 8:30 p.m., and it was still daylight. Can you imagine how this gal felt, out on the street walking into a cafe in downtown Calgary - What a rush! It was all new to me, but I found myself feeling comfortable, like I belonged there, and in a short time I was able to relax and enjoy the evening. It was a very enjoyable evening that did not end until 5 a.m. Which goes to show you that when you are with special friends that care about you, that accept you for you, the moment is to be savoured for as long as one can. Now after such an evening, how can the Birthday celebration top that you ask?

continued on next page

Dear Illusions,

As a hopeful wanting to become a member of Illusions, I just cannot say how happy I am being out of the 'closet' once again.

I come from a very small central Alberta town, off the family farm. In the past not knowing of anyone else like myself many of my so called out of closet outings took place as costume parties.

Since meeting with Dana, Sonya, Michelle, and Monica; Just a few of the terrific people involved with Illusions, I've really enjoyed stepping out of my closet, as well as having the chance to put on some makeup and begin re-using my long ago practice of doing my hair.

Going into seclusion such for some years makes stepping out once more a whole new learning game. Plus the fact that no matter how I am afraid to admit that I am getting older, it takes a whole lot longer to make this gal in a dress to look as good as I once thought I might have.

I cannot think of any more wonderful people than the people of Illusions, and I am very positive that if accepted for membership, I will be forever and ever!

Kerrie Falon

**We want  
your  
letters.  
Send them  
in ASAP**

## Reader Letters. Illusions gals tell all (Well Almost)

### MORE OF A GAL'S FIRST NIGHT continued from last page

Well, I was fortunate to have the experience of a make over done by Ty Morgan. This make over was done Saturday afternoon, in preparation for the evening's events. It was the beginning of a very special evening. Make over, "Big Deal" you say. Well let me set the atmosphere for you: this gal is new to being dressed, new to being allowed to be feminine, in a strange place but among friends, only done.

makeup a few times before herself. It is an exceptional, almost undescrivable feeling to sit there and have someone do all your makeup (it was for me anyway). The transformation was fantastic. Like I had said, I had done makeup a few times before, but it was nothing to compare with Ty's artistic talents. After that, every mirror I encountered that evening, I had to stop and admire this gorgeous gal. I received a compliment that evening, that was more for Ty than me. It came from a real woman who I had a very enjoyable conversation with. I sure hope I see her again at future ILLUSIONS socials. She said "If I had not heard you speak, I would have never known that you were not a woman". I'm going to have to work on my voice. The evening was a wonderful time. The weekend was a very memorable one for me. One that I will treasure always, for the good times, and the special friends who shared those times.

The most surprising aspect of coming out at an ILLUSIONS social event is the support, friendship and acceptance one experiences. The fear of being out amongst dozens of people you don't know is hard enough to cope with, let alone being dressed to the nines as a woman. This fear is soon dispelled by the friendly acceptance of everyone.

Saturday June 10th was a very special day for the social club of ILLUSIONS. It was recognition of five years of providing a safe, friendly place where people of the alternate lifestyle can go and meet others for an enjoyable evening. It was also very special for me. I was able to enjoy being out in public for the first time, without having to worry about my identity or safety.

THANK YOU ILLUSIONS.

BEVERLY

Dear Illusions,

Reading my new copy of the magazine, I noticed only a few members contribute to it, (or so I see).

It is hard work to keep a magazine going, so here is my two cents worth.

Who to tell, I was told two weeks after moving in with my (now) husband. Yes I am a Mrs. I took it O.K., with only a slight giggle from nerves. Ten years after, I told the one I could trust; My mother. My daughter also knows, but we don't do the crossdressing scenario in front of her.

Tell only if you are a brave soul, but early in the relationship. Pain is the end result if later. As long as the talk show hosts Sally, Jenny Jones, etc. keep the horror stories to a minimum, my mum is O.K. with it. Slim Skirts and Sewing Machines, Esme.

### Roxy's Coming Out Weekend

Hello sisters. I'm new to the Illusions Social Club but not new to CDing. I've been cross dressing since I was about six. I have searched for you for a long time having been on my own for years. As you know, it can be really a drag (sorry, that was rude) stuck in the old closet but I had finally reached a stage in my life where I was just tired of hiding all the time and I really needed to meet other CDers for mutual support. But I also wanted to let an old and trusted friend know about my other life. I have been in hiding from my friends for some 30 years and it had reached a point where it was just too much. So I thought I'd tell you about how I have started to break out, hopefully to inspire those of you who haven't to get off your fannies and do so.

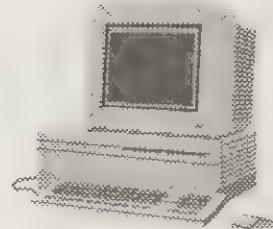
Early this summer I came across an "Illusions" in a local adult store - contact was finally made! And wow, besides apparently having a lot of fun, you people look really beautiful. I couldn't wait to meet you in person and with chapters in Edmonton and Red Deer as well - great! Discretion essential - well it better be! I sent in a letter and got a nice reply from Christine who suggested I come down for an interview. I dolled up, put on my new summer dress and drove down to meet Barbie or Christine. I also took along a few photos of myself just in case I got the nerve to tell a friend about Roxy. I figured it would be best to show him a nice photo if the opportunity arose rather than just tell him his best friends' been a CDer all her life.

Well when I got to the store Christine came out and introduced herself. We chatted about the club for a while and I was in heaven. Here was Roxy, talking to another person with no sense of anxiety and, yes, I hate to say it but no guilt. Christine just accepted me as who I was, and although our meeting was brief I felt at home with her. As we finished off, Christine said three words to me that just sent me soaring, "You look good." Simple little words yes, but to Roxy, well, she just had never been complemented for looking like a lady.

I was resolved to tell my trusted friend B. about Roxy, putting 12 years of comradery on the line so that Roxy might have a friend outside the friends I hope to make in Illusions.

I believe that there is a reason for the occurrence of all events in life and that one must flow with opportunities. And that opportunity finally happened to me on a Saturday evening. We were in a favourite restaurant. I was in a sulky mood (wonder why?) and so B. was ignoring me and reading a Calgary paper, which he had spread out on the table between us. And there they were. Top of the B section. I was sure

Roxy's Coming Out, continued on the the following page





## The Other Half

In April of last year, Jack dropped a bombshell on me. He wanted to join a club called Illusions, where he could dress up like a girl. We had been married nearly 26 years and I couldn't believe that he would do such a thing. I was devastated! What else was he keeping from me? Was he turning gay? How could he go out in public and even discuss such an intimate part of our lives? I knew he liked to wear my nighties but I had no idea of the extent of his desire to dress up.

For several months I watched as Jack left home for Illusions meetings. Each time he left it just killed me. I was so hurt and imagined the wildest things must be going on at this place. I finally decided to see for myself what went on at these socials.

It was October and I was a basket case not knowing for sure what I was about to see. Much to my surprise, the people there were just ordinary guys dressed up in ladies clothes. Everyone was really friendly and supportive. Each one took turns trying to explain why he felt he had to dress up like a woman.

I still have a difficult time accepting Jacqui but the more I learn about crossdressing the easier it becomes. I now attend all Illusions functions and have a lot of fun. If someone had ever suggested a year ago that I would have fun discovering "Alternate Lifestyles" I would have told them they were nuts! Instead of that closed position I now enjoy going to events and have been to two Coronation Balls, various night-clubs, with Jacqui and had a great time.

The best thing to come out of this so far, is we're closer than ever before and we communicate much better as well. We've made a lot of new friends and go out more together. With the help and support of Jacqui, the club members and their significant others, I will continue to try to accept this side of my husband.  
*Leslie*

## Dear Illusions Friends,

Just a brief note to thank you, once again, for your welcome donation of \$500.00 to Gay Lines Calgary recently presented to our past-President Stephen Lock at your 5th Anniversary on June 10, 1995.

Gay Lines Calgary and Illusions Social Club have enjoyed a long mutually supportive relationship which we sincerely hope continues for many years to come.

Thank you once again for your donation.

Yours Sincerely,

**Gerard Lucius Allison**

Treasurer

Gay Lines Calgary Association

## Roxy's Coming Out continued

that was Barbie and Christine. When B. finished reading I grabbed the section, and yes, it was them and it was an article on their business! I devoured the piece, being impressed with the newspaper's understanding to our lifestyle. When I put the paper down I couldn't help but notice B's eyes wandering back to Barbie and Christine's picture again and again. I had my opening.

So, I said, "Its some coincidence that Barbie's in the paper"

"Oh, why?" says, B.

"Because I came down on Thursday to meet her"

"Really, what for?"

"Because she's part of my culture" says I, and then I pass him a photo.

"So this is Barbie?" he asks.

"No, B., ...take a reeeeeeal close look." (I'm a brunette, and besides I can't match Barbie in the looks department)

B. studies the picture a bit longer - "This is you?" Roxy's really out of the closet now ladies - its all on the line!

"Yes, B. I'm part of that group, I'm a cross dresser"

B. gives a great laugh of pleasure and then exclaims "That's great! Wow, wholly man, geeze... etc... (further accolades)!"

He stares at the photo a while and then the clincher, "You look a lot better as a woman than you do as a guy."

"Why thank you B., I'll take my compliments where I can get them."

Of course we went through the usual questions e.g. "Are you gay" "No, and most of us aren't"

"How long have you been doing this" "As long as I can remember but successfully since 25"

Well it was a relief to be out! For the first time someone in my other life knew about who I really was. It was the first time I could talk about myself as a complete person. It was a great evening, one of the best in my life! We talked for hours. I told him aspects of myself and my personal philosophy that had never been given voice before: The joy of being treated like a lady in public, the fun of dressing up, the release of being able to physically express a feminine side that exists in all persons, the fear of being read, the terror from being chased by some bastard intent on sexual assault. Years of the burden of silence were released. B. was completely open to what I am, indeed he was fascinated that his best friend could have gone through all this.

Thanks to all the Illusions people. Even though I have only met Christine, just knowing you're there means the world to me. It's because of all your past effort that my life has become much more fulfilled. I look forward to meeting and having fun with all of you. Thank you for just being there

*Love Roxanne*

## STEFFI FINDS HERSELF EMPTY & SHORT DOWN-UNDER

It all happened on a cold Sunday night two months ago. I went to a birthday celebration for one of my TV friends. The temperature was only 6 C, quite unusual for Melbourne in June. It was held at a small hotel in St. Kilda called "the Capitol Cafe" which is owned by a gay gentleman named John. We all went femme and enjoyed good food, wine and company.

On the way home I decided that I should stop in at a petrol station to refill my gas tank. I drove into the next convenient place and stepped out of my car. The car happens to be a panel van, it's sort of like a pick-up truck only the back part is covered and the front is like a sedan. It has a 5 litre V-8 engine, wide, mag wheels and has been lowered. Not really the most appropriate car for a girl.

So anyway, there I am filling my tank in the most elegant way I know how, when I noticed that there was another girl there doing the same thing. So I was watching and copying her actions learning how a real girl does it, when I realized that I'd gone over the amount that I had in my purse and couldn't afford to pay for my fuel. *Oh My Goodness!*

I looked for my credit card, but it was still at home in my boy clothes. It was then that I remembered that if you can't pay for your fuel, that the common practice is for the manager to keep your license until you return to pay the outstanding amount. I certainly didn't want to hand over my license, especially when it has a photo of me and my male name on it.

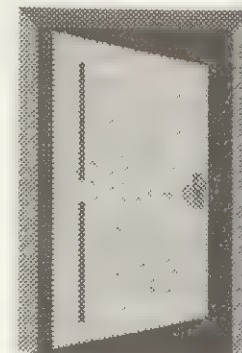
At his point I was getting quite stressed and in desperation I began to feel around underneath the seat for enough change to make up the difference. But I had no luck at all I could do was try to be strong and go in to face the music. GASP! I walked in expecting the worst. The man behind the counter asked "How are you tonight?" I replied in an already defeated voice, "Not to well actually, you see I got distracted while I filling up and now I'm five dollars short." "Oh, that's alright darling, you can come back another day to pay that back." *PHEW!*

I was so relieved. I must have thanked him about three times. I thought about it all the way home. I didn't know whether he'd taken pity on me or whether I was incredibly lucky, but I'll never go out without my credit card on enough money again.

So be prepared girls and don't leave anything to chance. *Love Steffi*



Illustration by Steffi



**Closet Doors (The Show)** Closet Doors is a benefit sho recently held in Vancouver for the second year in a row. The names of some of the local drag entertainers were on the bill, so Charlene and I decided to check it out en femme. When we arrived we found that we were the only two people en femme, but we were certainly well recieved. Did we pass? No. Did we make a positive impression? I believe so. Did we have fun? You bet! The reason we were so well recieved by the people there was due to sveral reasons. Firstly, we presented ourselves in a positive and appropriate fashion. We did make an impact, but for positive rather than negative reasons. Secondly, we felt comfortable and confident in who we were. Thirdly, we had a good time and mixed with the crowd.

To quote a good friend (and our new first princess) "it's not about why I do this (dressing), but rather what is acceptable and in what circumstances". Even though I have only come out of the closet during the past year, I have found the transition far easier than I expected. Closet Doors, and other events like it,

*continued on page 38 Closet Doors s*

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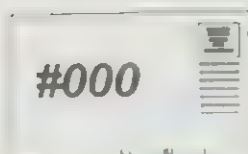


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If you are from out of town, write us to the above address. Tell us about yourself, send a photo if you want to be in the registry and include a cheque or money order in Canadian funds for \$40 made out to *Illusions Social Club*.

If you prefer to just receive the magazine, no problem. We'll send it to you in a plain brown wrapper. The price is still \$40.

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## The Classifieds

To respond to any of these advertisers, please use the same procedure you would for the Illusions registry. See page 30.

### #1001 Mistress Black

Edmonton, Alta. 6'4" Goddess in black leather, 30 yrs. young, TV. Looking for the right subject to serve my whims. Enjoys bondage and discipline. Consideration given to sincere honest responses. Your picture gets fast response. So tell me your fantasies and we'll see what happens....

#1005 I'm a very sensual, feminine TV. Silky smooth, and attractive, (I am pictured in this magazine). I dress to pass but wait'll you see me in revealing dresses, exquisite lingerie and fantasy fashions. I am sincere and discrete, not a professional. I'm just looking to be some wonderful man's lady-friend. If you are a smart, sincere gentleman with a zest for fun and romance tell me about yourself, send a photo too. Sister TV's for lovers would also be wonderful!

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#349 Jennifer #350 Felicia  
#351 Jill #352 Darlene  
#353 Susan #354 Allyson  
#355 Tracy #356 Trina  
#357 Mandy #359 Jan  
#360 Beverly #361 Janis  
#362 Darlene

#363 Karrie Very sincere friendship, open to letters and comments of other dressers.

## Closet Doors

From page 29

present us with the opportunity to express our femme side in a very positive way beyond the boundaries of the "safe" forums that we have already been involved in like Illusions socials, specific clubs, and private parties. We had a wonderful time before, during and after the show at the reception. There is a lot to be said for sipping Martinis and chatting with the performers,

sponsors, organizers and others in the crowd. We had several people come up to us, introduce themselves and compliment us on our presentation. We had a wonderful time. This one I will never forget, because it was something we did somewhat blindly. We had no idea what the show, the audience, or the setting would be like. Sometimes the best experiences are the surprises along the way. Thank you

Michelle for your words of wisdom, which have allowed me to step forward into new situations with more confidence and more sensitivity to how my presentation will be received. For me the goal is not to "pass", but rather to enjoy myself and celebrate the life that I have.

Anyway, back to the show ... We had front row seats and it was an absolute blast with an incredible array of clothes being presented from the various sponsors by various local theatre, dance and drag performers. When approached about tickets for the 50/50 draw I expressed to Charlene that I was feeling lucky, and would she be interested in splitting the cost of an arm's length of tickets. Well, we WON! It was a goodly amount of cash and best of all Charlene had the honour of going up on stage to get the cash. The folks

sitting directly behind us wished they had won the draw (of course, who wouldn't), but if they didn't win they were glad that we had, because they really liked our spirit and presentation.

My life is a series of adventures, and luckily for me I have good friends to share those adventures with. Since coming into the light I have discovered an intuitive side that I never knew or perhaps never trusted. It is so refreshing and invigorating for me to be able to explore who I am as a total person, both feminine and masculine. I feel charmed that I have this opportunity to explore the world from two very different perspectives. If I can offer any encouragement and advice to my sisters it is simply to listen to your intuition, trust it, be yourself, enjoy who you are, and go for it girl!

If you have had an experience you want to tell the other Illusions ladies. Type it out on your computer (Give us a text, WP or Word file please!), on your typewriter, or pen it out. Send it to this magazine.



## Where to fly in '95

### SOUTHERN COMFORT - Sept 27 - Oct 1

Atlanta, Georgia  
Contact - Southern Comfort  
P.O. Box 77591  
Atlanta, GA 30357 USA

### MARDI GRAS '95 - September 28 - Oct 1

Presented by The Monarch Social Club  
Divine Lake Resort, Muskoka Lakes, Ontario  
Contact - Mardi Gras '95 Committee  
Mississauga 'A'  
P.O. Box 386  
Mississauga, Ont. Canada  
L5A 3A1

### FALL FLING - October 5 - 9

Cape Cod, Massachusetts  
Contact - TCNE, P.O. Box 2283  
Woburn, MA 01888 - 0483 USA  
617 - 891 - 9325

### FANTASIA FAIR '95 - Oct 15 - 22

Sponsored by Outreach Institute For Gender Studies  
Write to: FAN FAIR '95  
Attn-Registrar, P.O. Box 941  
SE Pa., 19399-0941, USA

### FALL HARVEST - October 26 - 29

Contact - St. Louis Gender Foundation  
P.O. Box 9433  
St. Louis, MO 63117 USA  
314 - 358 - 0410

### HOLIDAY EN FEMME - November 15 - 19

Hosted by Calgary's Phi Sigma Chapter of Tri-Ess  
Kananaskis Lodge, Rocky Mountains  
Contact: Phi Sigma

Box 81115, 755 Lake Bonavista Dr. S.E.,  
Calgary, Alberta, T2J 7C9, CANADA

### FIRST EVENT '96 - January 24 - 28

Presented by the Tiffany Club of New England  
Crowne Plaza, Woburn, Massachusetts  
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### 8th ANNUAL TEXAS T PARTY - February 22 - 25

P.O. Box 700042  
San Antonio, TX 78270  
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### MINNESOTA PRIDE '96 - March 24 - 31

'96 - 10th IFGE Convention, Minneapolis Minnesota  
IFGE  
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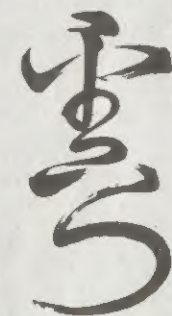
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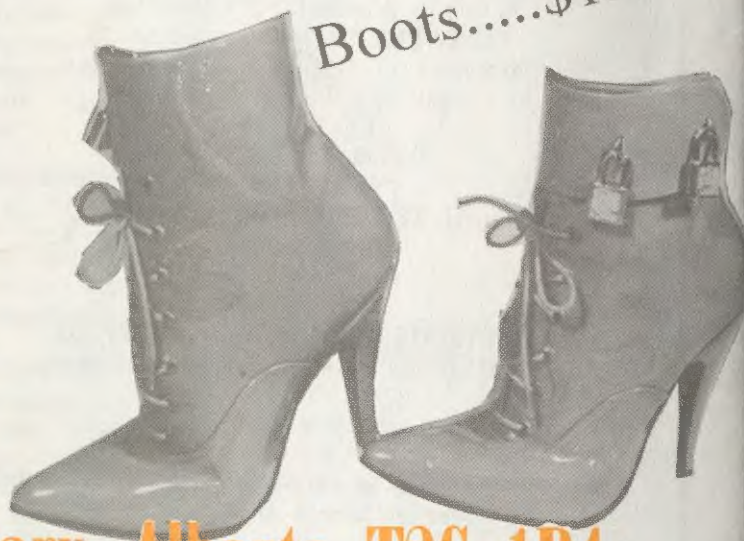
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